

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 16-20, 21, 23, 27 and 29 are amended. Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 24, 25, 26 and 30 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2-8, 13, 14, 16-23 and 27-29 remain the application. Claims 31 and 32 are new.

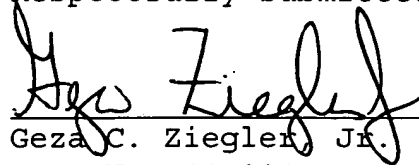
Claims 17, 18 and 20 are amended to positively recite the language of the method. These changes do not further narrow or limit the scope of the claims and are not made for reasons related to patentability.

2. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The claims are amended accordingly.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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8 Jun 2004
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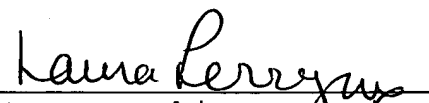
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